

Patent
Attorney Docket: 895,080-008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

Claim 50 (Amended) An improved port control module for use in a fibre channel switching fabric comprising:

- a fibre channel input/output port for connection to a link;
- an encoder/decoder in communication with the input/output port; and
- a buffer;

the improvement comprising the inclusion of buffer overrun prevention logic between the encoder/decoder and the buffer, the buffer overrun prevention logic tagging, but not terminating, words that overrun the buffer, wherein the buffer overrun prevention logic sets tag bits to a unique value indicative of an overrun condition.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The improved port control module for use in a fibre channel switching fabric of claim 50 wherein the buffer is a first-in, first-out buffer.

Claim 52 (Cancelled)

Claim 53 (Amended) A method for control of an input buffer, where the input buffer is adapted to receive a stream of data at a rate which is not subject to control by the buffer, comprising the steps of:

- receiving fibre channel data;
- placing the data in the buffer;
- monitoring for an overflow condition;

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and if an overflow condition is detected, including a detectable signal in association with the data, including providing tag bits set to a unique value indicative of an overrun condition, but not terminating, data that overruns the buffer; and

providing the data from the buffer and the detectable signal to subsequent devices.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53 for control of an input buffer, the detectable condition comprising tag bits.

Claim 55 (Cancelled)